

Message Text

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11

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5470

INFO NACC COLLECTIVE 26

US MISSION OECD PARIS 301

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 2958

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: EGEN, PFOR

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS - PEREZ GUERRERO'S VIEWS ON NAC

1. EMBOFF MET WITH HEAD OF VENEZULAN OBSERVER DELEGATION TO NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE, MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, PEREZ GUERRERO, MORNING AUGUST 14. PEREZ HAD BEEN HAVING PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH SMALL GROUPS ABOUT STATE OF NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE AND HAS REACHED CONCLUSION THAT MAJORITY OF IMPORTANT NAC PARTICIPANTS ARE COMMITTED TO PURSUIT OF DIALOGUE BUT THERE IS UNDERCURRENT OF DISSATISFACTION WHICH COULD SURFACE BEFORE CONFERENCE CONCLUDES.

2. PEREZ DESCRIBED GENERAL FEELING AT CONFERENCE AS ONE OF MODEST SATISFACTION THAT UNCTAD IV HAD SEEN "THE BEGINNING OF A BREAKTHROUGH "

ON COMMODITIES AND TECHNOLOGY. THIS WAS ACCOMPANIED WITH CONSIDERABLE CYNICISM AS TO WHETHER SIGNIFICANT RESULTS COULD BE ACHIEVED IN CIEC AND IN FOLLOW-UP UNCTAD MEETINGS. MOST, HOWEVER, WERE AT THIS STATE WILLING TO SEE WHERE NEXT SET OF MEETING LED. FOR THEM, PURPOSE OF THIS CONFERENCE WOULD BE TO REASSERT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' GOALS AND ISSUE STRONG
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APPEAL TO "THE OTHER SIDE" WITH THE U.S. PARTICULARLY IN MIND.

3. THERE WERE SOME AT THE CONFERENCE WHO WERE MORE DISCONTENT, FELT THAT NEGOTIATIONS WERE PROVING FRUITLESS, AND WERE URGING A TEST OF STRENGTH. CYNICISM WITH REGARD TO U.S. COMMITMENT TO RESULTS AT PARIS WAS WIDESPREAD ENOUGH TO PROVIDE FERTILE FIELD FOR THESE ARGUMENTS, PEREZ FELT. HE FEARED THAT POSSIBILITY OF A TURN-AROUND STILL EXISTED AND WAS ENDEAVORING TO PREVENT IT.

4. PEREZ SAID HE WOULD NOT ADDRESS THE CONFERENCE EITHER AS CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE CIEC OR AS HEAD OF VENEZUELAN DELEGATION. HE INTENDED TO KEEP A LOW PROFILE BECAUSE ANY OTHER STANCE WOULD ONLY LEAD TO A MORE AGITATED CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUES. HE WAS, HOWEVER, ACTIVELY MEETING WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GROUP OF 19 AS WELL AS DELEGATIONS OUTSIDE THE GROUP OF 19. HE FELT BUOYED BY THE FACT THAT IMPORTANT COUNTRIES WHO WERE PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE MOVEMENT, AND NOT MERELY OBSERVERS AS VENEZUELA, WERE SUPPORTING HIS EFFORTS.

5. PEREZ LAMENTED THAT HE HAD LITTLE THAT WAS CONCRETE TO OFFER TO DOUBTFUL DELEGATES WITH REGARDS TO A POSSIBLE RESOLUTION OF THE IMPASSE IN PARIS. CANADIAN CO-CHAIRMAN MACEACHEN HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HIM OPENING UP POSSIBILITIES TO THIS END, AND PEREZ WELCOMED THIS BUT WOULD PREFER SOMETHING MORE FOR THIS TALKS HERE. WITHIN THIS OVERALL VIEW, PEREZ DID NOT FEEL THAT PARTICIPANTS IN THE CONFERENCE WERE SHIFTING THEIR EMPHASIS FROM ONE FORM TO ANOTHER, I.E., AS LONG AS PROGRESS COULD BE MADE THEY WERE WILLING TO FOCUS THEIR ATTENTION ON PARIS THIS YEAR AND ON THE UNCTAD COMMODITIES SCHEDULE. HE SIMILARLY REPORTED THAT FRICTION EARLIER IN THE YEAR BETWEEN THE GROUP OF 19 AND THE GROUP OF 77 WAS NOT IN EVIDENCE, ATTRIBUTING THIS TO THE LIAISON SYSTEM THAT HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED BETWEEN PARIS AND GENEVA AND NEW YORK. HE WAS, HOWEVER, BEING CAREFUL NOT TO LIMIT HIS DISCUSSIONS HERE TO THE GROUP OF 19.
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